

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A connection control method for an information processing apparatus, comprising:

a reception step of receiving identification information for identifying each wireless network ~~[[out]]~~ of a plurality of wireless networks;

a first joining step of wirelessly joining ~~[[in]]~~ a wireless network identified by the identification information received in the reception step;

a detection step of inquiring, of other information processing apparatuses in the wirelessly joined wireless network, whether the other information processing apparatuses ~~have a function~~ are capable of performing a predetermined processing, and, based on a positive inquiry response, detecting another information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing; ~~[[and]]~~

a request step of requesting the predetermined processing from the other information processing apparatus, if the other information processing apparatus is detected in the detection step; and

a second joining step of joining ~~[[in]]~~ another wireless network identified by the ~~[[other]]~~ identification information in accordance with the response to the inquiry; received in the reception step, if another information processing apparatus is not detected in the detection step.

wherein the detection step is executed again in the wireless network joined in the second joining step and the request step is executed in accordance with a result of the detection step.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[2]]1, wherein, in the request step, one of the other information processing apparatuses which the predetermined processing is requested from another information processing apparatus that has first positively responded to the inquiry, ~~is controlled to be connected:~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein, in the request step, when the predetermined processing ~~together with the one of the other information processing apparatuses which performed by the other information processing apparatus that~~ has first positively responded to the inquiry [[error]] ends as an error, the predetermined processing is requested from yet another information processing apparatus [[which]] that has positively responded ~~is controlled to be connected:~~ to the inquiry.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the detection step of joining, when the response to the inquiry is a negative response or no response exists, it is determined that there is no other [[the]] information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing joins in the other wireless network.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the detection step, of inquiring, the inquiry is performed by a broadcast message for all information output terminals in a single network; it is inquired whether all other information processing apparatuses in a same network are capable of performing the predetermined processing.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information processing apparatus wirelessly communicates according to a wireless LAN method defined by IEEE 802.11.

Claim 8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the information processing apparatus wirelessly communicates in a communication mode according to an infrastructure mode defined by IEEE 802.11.

Claim 9. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the information processing apparatus wirelessly communicates in a communication mode according to an ad-hoc mode defined by IEEE 802.11.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving identification information for identifying each wireless network [[out]] of a plurality of wireless networks;

first joining means for wirelessly joining [[in]] a wireless network identified by the identification information received by the reception means;

detection means for inquiring, of other information processing apparatuses in the wirelessly joined wireless network, whether the other information processing apparatuses have a function are capable of performing a predetermined processing, and, based on a positive inquiry response, detecting another information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing; [[and]]

request means for requesting the predetermined processing from the other information processing apparatus, if the other information processing apparatus is detected by the detection means; and

second joining means for joining [[in]] another wireless network identified by the [[other]] identification information ~~in accordance with a response to the inquiry, received by the reception means, if the other information processing apparatus is not detected by the detection means,~~

wherein the detection means is activated again in the wireless network joined by the second joining means and the request means is activated in accordance with a result of the detection means.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~program for causing a computer to execute a method defined in claim 1;~~ computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to control a connection of an information processing apparatus, wherein the control logic causes the computer to implement a method comprising:

a reception step of receiving identification information for identifying each wireless network out of a plurality of wireless networks;

a first joining step of wirelessly joining in a wireless network identified by the identification information received in the reception step;

a detection step of inquiring, of other information processing apparatuses in the wirelessly joined wireless network, whether the other information processing apparatuses have a function of performing predetermined processing, and, based on a positive inquiry response, detecting another information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing;

a request step of requesting the predetermined processing for the other information processing apparatus, if the other information processing apparatus is detected in the detection step; and

a second joining step of joining in another wireless network identified by the other identification information received in the reception step, if another information processing apparatus is not detected in the detection step,

wherein the detection step is executed again in the wireless network joined in the second joining step and the request step is executed in accordance with a result of detection.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~a step of controlling connection to one of the other~~
~~information processing apparatuses in accordance with a response to the inquiry;~~
wherein in the request step, another information processing apparatus capable of performing the

predetermined processing is connected and the predetermined processing is requested.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein, in the request step, of controlling, when the response to the inquiry is a positive response, one of the other information processing apparatuses which the predetermined processing is requested from another information processing apparatus that has positively responded to the inquiry, is controlled to be connected.